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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,605	11/20/2001	Scott Montgomery	268/261	3869
34313	7590	04/19/2006	EXAMINER	
ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE, LLP			ABDI, KAMBIZ	
IP PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT			ART UNIT	
4 PARK PLAZA			PAPER NUMBER	
SUITE 1600			3621	
IRVINE, CA 92614-2558			DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 3621

DETAILED ACTION

1. The prior office action is incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.
2. Claims 1-45 and 64-90 have been considered.
 - Claims 1-156 were canceled.
 - No claims amended.
 - Claims 157 and 158 are added.
 - Claims 157 and 158 are pending.
3. Claims 157 and 158 have been considered.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 29, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3621

6. Claims 157 and 158 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,945 to Harry T. Whitehouse in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,292 to Andrew V. Sutherland et al.

7. As per claim 157, Whitehouse clearly teaches a postage indicia generation system for implementation with a postal system, comprising;

- a centralized postage-issuing computer system accessible to a plurality of end user computers, configured to generate and transmit a unique postage indicium to an end user computer upon request by the end user computer to be applied to a mail piece (See Whitehouse figure 2, column 10, lines 20-29, column 15, lines 34-43, column 6, lines 30-65, and column 26, lines 49-55);
- a master tracking computer system, communicatively coupled to the centralized postage-issuing computer system, configured to generate a unique tracking identification string to be applied to the mail piece and to send the unique tracking identification string to the centralized postage-issuing computer system (See Whitehouse column 6, lines 30-65, column 13, lines 15-65 and column 14, line 66- column 15, line 17),
- wherein the centralized postage-issuing computer system is further configured to associate the tracking identification string with the unique postage indicium and store the association in a database (See Whitehouse column 21, line 11-column 22, line 64).
- further wherein the centralized postage-issuing computer system enables a user to verify the unique postage indicium on the mail piece by sending the tracking identification string to the centralized postage-issuing computer system (See Whitehouse column 13, lines 19-55).
- wherein the unique tracking identification string on the mail piece is represented as a one-dimensional barcode, and wherein the centralized postage-issuing computer system enables a user to verify the unique postage indicium on the mail piece by submitting data derived from the one-dimensional barcode.

Art Unit: 3621

What is not clearly specified by the Whitehouse is the use of the unique serial number (tracking information or tracking identification string) to verify the postage indicia based on the detection of such tracking string from a one-dimensional bar-code (See Whitehouse column 10, lines 10- column 11, line 57, column 13, lines 16-60, column 14, line 66- column 15, line 43). However, Sutherland clearly teaches that the use of the one-dimensional bar-code as a way of reducing the number bits used in a indicia as well as the information in the bar-code for avoiding the use of two-dimensional bar-code required by the IBIP (See Sutherland figure 1 and associated text, column 2, lines 29-60 and column 7, line 1- column 8, line 68). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Sutherland into that of Whitehouse to simplify and reduce the overhead information employed by the Whitehouse teachings and simplifying the validation of the postage indicia.

Conclusion

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kambiz Abdi** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6702**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at **(571) 272-6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see

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Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Art Unit: 3621

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or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(571) 273-6702 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Examiner in the

Knox Building, 50 Dulany St. Alexandria, VA.

Kambiz Abdi
Primary Examiner

KAMBIZ ABDI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
April 17, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kambiz Abdi', written over a horizontal line.